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Japan: The government is expected to approve a development plan for 1970-75 that would maintain a rapid pace of economic progress and substantially improve living standards.

The plan was drawn up by Japan's Economic Council, an advisory group similar to the US Council of Economic Advisers. According to press reports, cabinet approval of the plan is expected next month. It sets notably higher goals than those adopted by the government in the past.

Nevertheless, the plan implies a slackening of the extremely high growth rate of 14 percent experienced in the past three years by calling for a 10.6 percent annual increase in gross national product. Achievement of the proposed goals would raise Japan's per capita income to about the current level in France and West Germany.

An important shift in the plan is its prediction of continued growth of the Japanese trade surplus to \$7.8 billion in 1975 from the present \$3.8 billion. Previous plans anticipated a trade deficit, which was a major factor limiting growth.

The proposed plan reportedly also stresses price stability and more rapid growth in social services and notifies the Japanese public that a proportionately greater tax burden will have to be borne out of their incomes.

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Prime Minister Sato has indicated recently that with the Okinawa problem settled, the government will be turning its attention and resources to the improvement of such things as housing, education, and the nation's long-neglected social services. In view of the growing public clamor for improvements in these areas, Sato recognizes that failure to meet these needs will hurt his ruling conservative party at the polls.

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Jordan-Lebanon: The fedayeen have exploited Assistant Secretary Sisco's visit to the Middle East to challenge the authority of the governments of Jordan and Lebanon.

Yesterday's request by Amman that US Ambassador Symmes be transferred probably stemmed in part from a desire by King Husayn to reduce fedayeen pressure on him. Nevertheless, the King was angered that Sisco's visit did not take place as scheduled and the foreign minister described the US decision as "without justification." Sisco's failure to come, despite Jordanian assurances that they could protect him, is regarded by the Jordanians as publicly calling into question Husayn's ability to control the fedayeen.

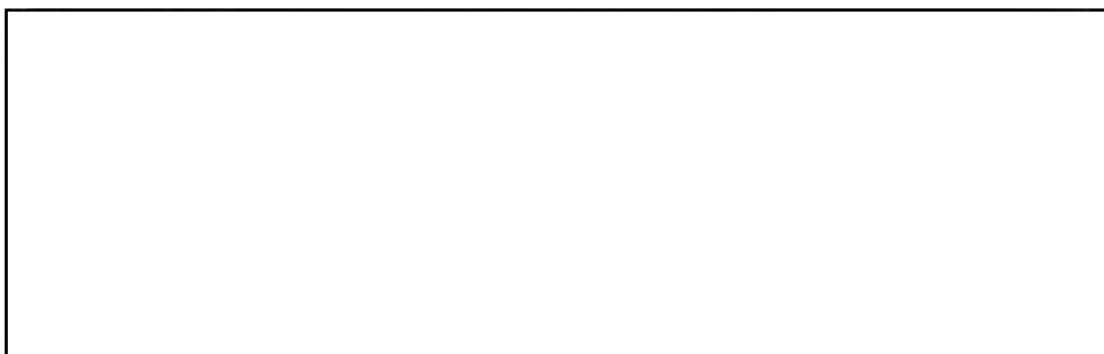
Demonstrations led by members of the extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine occurred in Amman yesterday for the fourth straight day. Fedayeen police from the Palestine Armed Struggle Command, the commando coordinating body, dispersed the demonstrators. At the same time, however, the fedayeen were rigidly enforcing a general strike and, according to the US Embassy, appeared to be in charge of Amman yesterday.

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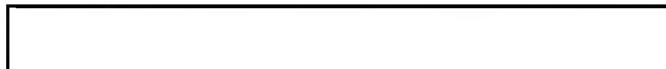
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Guatemala: Two more political assassinations occurred this week despite tight security since the murder of West German Ambassador Von Spreti.

Both victims had ties to President-elect Arana's right-wing National Liberation Movement (MLN). One was a party leader at the municipal level, and the other the bodyguard of MLN director general Mario Sandoval.



The Guatemalan Government, stung by international criticism over its failure to protect the diplomatic community, has imposed strict censorship. It is also encouraging an anti-German propaganda campaign because the Bonn government has withdrawn most of its embassy personnel.



NOTES

Trinidad-Tobago: The government has privately requested that the US turn over all its base facilities on the island. The move may be intended to help defuse the nationalistic black power movement by the exploitation of a potentially popular issue. Although the request for all facilities appears to be only a bargaining position, Trinidad is likely to continue to press for return of at least some installations as it seeks local political advantage. In 1967, the US closed a major naval base, but retained a missile tracking station and a navigational aid installation.

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UN: The Dutch are exploring the possibility of Security Council action to improve the protection of diplomats around the world in the wake of recent kidnappings. If the reaction is favorable, they may seek a Council meeting under Article 34, which empowers the Council to investigate any situation the continuation of which is likely to "endanger the maintenance of international peace and security." The Hague is apparently also considering that the International Court of Justice be asked for an advisory opinion on whether such kidnappings are international crimes. The Council last year was wary of dealing with the aerial hijacking problem, and a similar fate probably awaits the Dutch initiative.

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